

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 696 IN OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696 in Owensboro, Kentucky continue to do to improve their community. Post 696 has exemplified the mission of the VFW: Honor the dead by helping the living.

The post has donated over \$22,000 to local and State organizations in the past year. Beneficiaries of their generosity have included local schools, the Boy Scouts, shelters, and churches. Their generosity has also been extended to organizations such as the Wendell Foster Center, Shriners Hospitals, the Children's Wish Foundation, the Disabled American Veterans, and JEVCO.

Post 696 recently sponsored a going-away picnic for the members of Ft. Campbell's Alpha Troop and their families being deployed to Iraq. The city of Owensboro adopted Alpha Troop through the Americans Supporting Americans' Adopt-a-Unit-Program. I thank the members of the troop for their service and the city of Owensboro for this commitment to these brave soldiers.

The VFW Post 696 Honor/Color Guard has been busy serving the community as well. Since 2001, they have participated in over 400 veteran funerals and 50 community events in Daviess County.

I want to recognize the leaders of Post 696, Commander Richard "Ike" Eisenmenger, Jr., Ladies Auxiliary President Marilu Goodsell, and Color/Honor Guard Commander Joseph Hayden. They have worked tirelessly to serve veterans and improve their community.

It is my privilege to honor the members of VFW Post 696 today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for their past service to our country and continued dedication to serving their community.

RECOGNIZING USO MARINE OF THE YEAR—SGT. JUSTIN CLOUGH

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the military service of Sgt Justin Clough, the most recent recipient of the USO's Marine of the Year award.

Although Justin is only 22, he has demonstrated bravery and leadership beyond his years. Since joining the U.S. Marine Corps, Justin has served two tours of duty and led more than 100 combat missions in Iraq as the squad leader of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine

Regiment. During these missions, his squad was frequently attacked by direct and indirect fire. His dedication to leadership and training would ensure the safety of his fellow marines and ultimately prove to save his own life. On December 26, 2006, Justin was wounded by an insurgent sniper while on a routine patrol in Fallujah. Following the attack, his comrades, which included Justin's twin brother Nathaniel Clough, swiftly brought him to safety.

On September 20, the USA recognized Justin with one of its most prestigious honors, the Marine of the Year award at the 66th annual USO World Gala. In addition to the Marine of the Year award, Justin was chosen as the top marine in his company and battalion, awarded with the Purple Heart, and recommended for the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for valor.

Since returning to Stonington, CT, Justin has balanced physical therapy and volunteer work with the local high school football team. Upon receiving his medical discharge papers, he hopes to attend a university or work on a military base as a civilian.

While his presence will certainly be missed in the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, his leadership will undoubtedly yield success in future academic and work endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in saluting Justin's service to the Marines and our Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE DOCUMENTARY FILM, "THE BORINQUEÑERS"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month to introduce the documentary film "The Borinqueneers." This compelling film chronicles the never-before-told story of the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in United States Army history.

El Pozo Productions, in collaboration with Raquel Ortiz, acclaimed producer of "Mi Puerto Rico," released "The Borinqueneers," the first major documentary to chronicle the story of the 65th Infantry Regiment.

Narrated by Hector Elizondo, the documentary explores the fascinating stories of courage, triumph, and struggle of the men of the 65th through rare archival materials and compelling interviews with veterans, commanding officers, and historians.

The 65th Infantry Regiment was created in 1899 by the U.S. Congress as a segregated unit composed primarily of Puerto Ricans with mostly continental officers. It went on to serve meritously in three wars: World War I, World War II, and the Korean war. The unit was nicknamed after "Borinquen," the word given to Puerto Rico by its original inhabitants, the Taino Indians, meaning, "land of the brave lord."

When they were finally called to the front lines in the Korean war, the men of the 65th performed impressively, earning praise from General MacArthur. They performed a critical role containing the Chinese advance and supporting the U.S. Marines in the aftermath of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Sent to every corner of the peninsula, they showed outstanding resilience and a legendary fierceness as combatants, even as they faced discrimination within the Army. But in the fall of 1952 the regiment was at the center of a series of dramatic events that would threaten its very existence.

Puerto Ricans occupy a special place in the history of the U.S. Army. Because of the island's commonwealth status, they don't have the right to vote in U.S. elections, and yet they serve in the military and can be drafted. For many of the veterans of the 65th, this paradox became an incentive to be even more patriotic, to prove themselves in battle 200 percent.

Although thousands of Puerto Ricans have served courageously in the Armed Forces since World War I, their contribution and sacrifices have gone largely unnoticed in the silver screen, until now.

As a testament to the legacy of the Borinqueneers, I submit into the RECORD an article from the New York Times-Metro Section regarding the film, that illustrates the rich history of this unique regiment and recognizes the Puerto Rican commitment to the United States Military.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 2, 2007]

BLOODIED IN BATTLE, NOW GETTING THEIR DUE

(By David Gonzalez)

Among the lamps, the religious cards and the knickknacks in Eugenio Quevedo's Upper West Side apartment is a worn and creased Banco Popular envelope. Tucked neatly inside, tiny black-and-white photos taken more than half a century ago show a rifle-toting soldier against a backdrop of hills and mountains.

"Korea was an ocean of mountains," Mr. Quevedo said. "We'd push forward and the enemy pushed us back. It was that kind of war."

He sounded tranquil, which in many ways he is at 81, though his eyes betrayed his emotions. In one corner of his living room, a poster shows the Puerto Rican flag, a nod to where he was born.

"We lost so many," he said. "The American people don't know the sacrifices of so many Puerto Ricans who died in Korea. It was the bloodiest war for Puerto Rico."

It is also a forgotten war for many Americans. Yet in recent months, veterans of a once-storied Puerto Rican regiment, the 65th Infantry Regiment—including Mr. Quevedo—have gotten their due in a documentary called "The Borinqueneers," which was first televised in New York over the summer and continues to be broadcast on public television nationally.

In a way, it is a passionate rejoinder to Ken Burns, whose World War II documentary drew sharp criticism from Latino and American Indian groups for initially ignoring their contributions during that war.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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